

SEE TO-MORROW'S REPUBLIC FOR LEADING MERCHANTS' MIDWEEK BARGAINS.

POWERS MAY CURB COLOMBIA; OUTLOOK DARK IN FAR EAST.

DIPLOMATS URGE COLOMBIA TO KEEP HANDS OFF PANAMA.

Bogota Government Can Expect No Sympathy From Europe if It Precipitates Hostilities.

FUTILITY OF WAR EXPLAINED.

General Reyes Fears That He Cannot Control Colombian Army if His Mission is a Failure.

HE WILL ASK ARBITRATION.

Naval Commanders Probably Will Ignore Presence of Troops on the Island of Pines, at Least for the Present.

JAPAN REJECTS RUSSIA'S TERMS; ENGLAND GLOOMY

Mikado Asks That Russian Offer, Which Contained No Tangible Concession, Be Reconsidered.

VIOLENCE GOES ON IN KOREA.

Japanese Troops Can Be Landed There to Restore Order Only by Consent of Czar's Government.

WAR RISKS ARE MUCH HIGHER.

Lloyd's Seems Persuaded That Hostilities in Far East Cannot Be Avoided—Russian Bonds Depressed.

TROOPS OCCUPY ISLAND NEAR PANAMA COAST.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Official confirmation has reached Washington of the landing of the Colombian troops on the Island of Pines (Los Pinos), which lies close to the coast of Panama. These troops number eighty, and they have taken up a position on this high island with the intention of making paths through the jungle.

The Island of Pines is the only island along that coast which is wooded, pecked with palm trees and also well watered, thus offering every facility for camping and being used as a base of operations.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Diplomatic pressure will be brought to bear on Colombia by several European Powers to prevent war between that country and the United States.

The first step in this direction already has been taken by several foreign Powers through their representatives here, who have informed General Rafael Reyes of the futility of any attempt by Colombia to retake Panama, declaring that it will result only in precipitating the Bogota Government into war with the United States, and have said to him that the result of such a catastrophe Colombia herself must realize.

If this is not sufficient, the representatives of these countries at Bogota will be instructed to inform President Marroquin that Colombia can expect no sympathy from the European Powers in any movement she may make on Panama, which would inevitably involve her in war with the United States.

REYES FEARS OUTBREAK.

The members of the Diplomatic Corps have been informed by General Reyes himself that he fears he can with difficulty check his people much longer.

General Reyes is not talking for publication but to several European Ambassadors he has confided his fears with frankness, and it is said he is doing everything in his power to prevent an outbreak before the conclusion of his war with the United States, although his influence with the army is considerable, he is so far away that it is difficult for him to make this felt as strongly as if he were on the ground and in command.

Diplomats whom General Reyes has approached on the subject of his fears, he most fears is the result of the announcement at Bogota of the failure of his mission. He himself realizes that the most he can hope from the Government of the United States is an offer that it will use moral suasion to prevail upon Panama to resume her portion of the Colombian debt.

TO SAVE WHAT HE CAN.

"I came to Washington to save what I could from shipwreck," he said to a diplomat of high rank.

Realization of the true situation, it is said, will not prevent General Reyes from calling on the United States for reference to The Hague of several of the questions at issue.

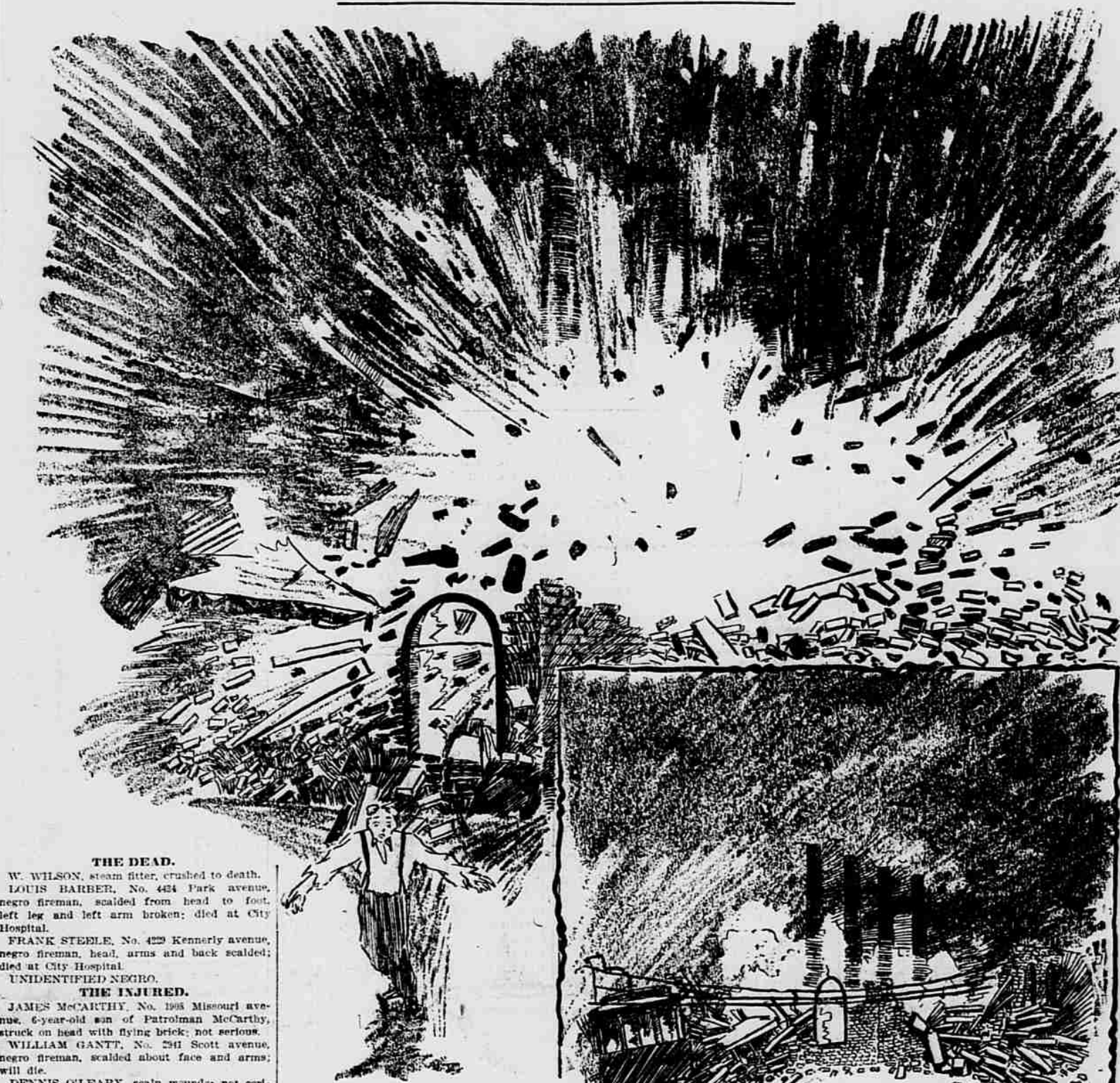
It is on this point that European diplomats have told General Reyes that it is expecting too much to expect this Government to submit any phase of the Panama matter to The Hague. Several Ambassadors have earnestly advised the General to impress on his people the fact that Europe wants the isthmian canal, and that Colombia can expect no sympathy from that quarter.

It has been further pointed out by these diplomats that the proffered sympathy of several South American Republics can avail Colombia nothing in the event of war with the United States.

Great Britain and the Netherlands have taken pains to let General Reyes know, indirectly, that Colombia reckons without her host if she interprets their delay in recognizing the Republic of Panama as an evidence of their sympathy for Colombia, or as due to other than a desire to protect the interests of their financiers, who are the largest holders of Government bonds.

It is said here to be unlikely that our naval commanders in isthmian waters will go to the extent of dislodging the Colombian troops which have landed on the Island of Pines. On this point, however, the policy of the Government has not been definitely decided.

EXPLOSION OF BATTERY OF POWER-HOUSE BOILERS AFFECTS TRANSIT SERVICE OVER BROAD AREA; FOUR MEN KILLED; SEVEN INJURED; ONE MISSING.



Showing the force of the explosion, which wrecked boilers and buildings at Geyer and Missouri avenues. One boiler was hurled nearly two blocks and windows in houses for several blocks were shattered.

Only for the prompt action of a workman who shouted a brief warning to his fellow employees, there doubtless would have been a long death list as the result of an explosion which wrecked the power-house of the St. Louis Transit Company at Geyer and Missouri avenues, causing the death of four men and injuring about fourteen, shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The force of the explosion was tremendous. The thick brick walls of the power-house were crushed outward as though they had been made of pasteboard.

One boiler was hurled nearly two blocks and narrowly missed a group of children playing in the street near where it fell.

The workmen, warned by one man, and who had sought safety across the street from the power-house, were thrown from their feet, and for several minutes after the explosion were powerless to assist those that they knew were buried under the wreckage.

Patrolman Tom McCormick, who lives in the neighborhood, was one of the first to reach the wrecked building.

In all directions there were tangled trolley wires, whose supports had been leveled by the shock, hissing and emitting long, angry flashes of blue fire as they came in contact with the wet ground.

Surrounded by that barrier of death-dealing power, the vast pile of bricks, timber and other wreckage held many lives within its embrace, and it required nerve and daring to attempt a rescue.

McCormick, however, succeeded in picking his way through the electrical "treacher," and grasping the unconscious form of one of the negro firemen, carried the man to the drug store on the corner of Geyer and Jefferson avenues, where his injuries were temporarily dressed.

WRECKAGE TAKES FIRE. The flames from the firebricks of the boilers rapidly spread to the wreckage and the combustible material was soon burning fiercely. A first alarm was almost immediately followed by a second and within a few minutes there were several companies of firemen to assist the volunteer rescue corps.

In the growing darkness, the moving forms of those trying to fight their way to the imprisoned men through the angry flames which were shooting from the dark mass of debris looked like ghouls dancing about their myriads of cauldrons.

The air was filled with shouts, and the occasional shrill and penetrating cry for aid served to nerve the rescuers to almost superhuman exertions.

STEAMFITTER BURIED. The first of those that fought their way through the smoke and flames into the heart of what had been the power-house boiler-room found W. Wilson, a steamfitter, imprisoned beneath a huge heap of wreckage.

With burning embers falling about them and utterly indifferent to their own danger, the firemen strove valiantly to save Wilson. Fiercely they attacked the huge beams that pinned him beneath their

weight, and finally, after a long and desperate struggle, they succeeded in freeing him. He was found unconscious but alive, and was taken to the hospital.

Other victims of the explosion were also rescued, though some of them were found dead. The bodies of the four men who were killed were recovered and are being held for identification.

The explosion occurred at a time when the power-house was being repaired. The workers were not aware of the danger and were caught by surprise.

The cause of the explosion is still under investigation. It is believed that a faulty boiler was the cause of the disaster.

The St. Louis Transit Company is responsible for the explosion. The company is being sued for damages and for the cost of the repairs.

The explosion has caused a great deal of damage to the power-house and to the surrounding area. It has also caused a great deal of inconvenience to the public.

The explosion is a reminder of the dangers of industrial accidents. It is important that safety measures be taken to prevent such accidents from happening again.

WILL USE FORCE TO KEEP PICKETS FROM FUNERALS.

Chicago Chief of Police Says Interference With Burials Must Stop, "Law or No Law."

TALKS PLAINLY TO STRIKERS.

Order Directed Against Tactics of Liverymen Makes No Concession to "Peaceful" Picketing.

STEPS TOWARD SETTLEMENT.

Board of Arbitration Manages to Arrange Conference of Which a Basis of Agreement Is Arranged.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Picketing of houses from which funerals are to start, whether peaceful or violent, by union livery drivers, who went on strike four days ago and which has seriously interfered with the burial of the dead of Chicago, is to be prevented by the police under direct orders issued to-night by Chief of Police O'Neill.

J. R. Wadsworth, secretary, and Charles Stevens, business agent of the Liverymen's Union, were summoned before Chief O'Neill to-night and informed in decidedly plain language that any differences the union might have would have to be settled away from the houses of mourning.

"This picketing of homes from which funerals are being held is beyond toleration of a civilized community," said Chief O'Neill.

BEYOND ENDURANCE. "Your zeal has carried you beyond the pale of endurance, and such an unheard of thing as carrying labor troubles to the houses of the dead will not be allowed by the police. Under no circumstances will I permit picketing of any kind around a house where a funeral is to proceed. And I must say that it ought not to be necessary for me to take this step."

"Law or no law, picketing of every kind around these houses will have to stop. I shall take my chances with the courts on the question if my conduct is questioned in any court."

Chief O'Neill then issued a general order to all inspectors of police on the line of his conversation with the two union officials. He instructed the commanding officers to accompany funerals in carriages, if circumstances seemed to require it, to see that the last rites of the dead were in no way interfered with.

ALL PICKETING BARRED. While the courts have been inclined to permit peaceful picketing, Chief O'Neill's order tends to prohibit picketing of any kind around houses of mourning. He declared to-night that in his opinion no court would be found which would fail to sustain an act of such evident necessity and propriety as that contemplated by the Police Department.

On top of Chief O'Neill's order came the announcement to-night that peace plans looking to a settlement of the strike had been launched. Through the efforts of the Chicago Board of Arbitration, which was largely instrumental in the settlement of the laundry strike last summer, a committee of four was appointed at a meeting of the four liverymen's and United Drivers' associations to meet with a committee of four from the Drivers' Union and endeavor to bring about an amicable adjustment of the trouble.

The committees got together to-night and agreed upon a basis of arbitrating the difficulty. The proposition was to submit to a vote of the men on both sides to-morrow, and its result probably will be an agreement to settle everything by arbitration.

BUSY DAY AT POST OFFICE.

Clerks and Carriers Appointed for the Holiday Rush.

The holiday rush at the Post Office is now on. Seventy-five new clerks and carriers have been added to the force during the last two days. More will be added to-day and will be in the service until Christmas.

The corridors of the Post Office were crowded yesterday with holiday shoppers who were sending remembrances to relatives and friends out of the city. Clerks were placed to work in the corridor on the Olive street side of the Post Office yesterday. Stamps are sold and mail registered by these clerks.

SENATOR HANNA IS SICK.

Attack of Rheumatism Keeps Him in His Room.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. New York, Dec. 21.—Senator Marcus A. Hanna may be forced to eat his Christmas dinner in this city. He has been attacked by rheumatism and is now confined to his room in the Waldorf-Astoria, where he is under the care of a physician.

It was said at the hotel to-night that there is nothing alarming in the Senator's condition, although he denied himself to all excepting his most intimate friends to-day.

FOLK SUPPORTERS ORGANIZE.

Club With 115 Members Formed at Marquand, Mo.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Fredericktown, Mo., Dec. 21.—A Folk Club was organized at Marquand, in this county, Saturday evening with 115 members.

Doctor L. Hull was elected president and Edward White secretary.

CRIPPLED CAR SERVICE REPAIRED.

Two Accidents in Different Power-Houses Cause the Trouble.

EXPLOSIONS AT BOTH PLACES.

The Suburban Company Was Out of Business Most All Day and the Transit Has a Supper Hour Accident.

An accident to a steam pipe at the De Hodiament power-house of the Suburban Company and the destruction of one of the Transit power-houses by the explosion of its boilers combined in a way that made an impression on thousands of shoppers who remained downtown until after 5 o'clock last night.

Thousands of suburbanites who live near the county lines of the Suburban Company were late in getting to their work yesterday morning. After waiting for cars which did not come, they were forced to walk long distances to railroad stations. All suburban trains in and out of Union Station were crowded and in many instances extra accommodation trains were run.

Among the improvements being made at the De Hodiament station of the Suburban Railway Company is that to replace the large steam pipe which connects the boilers with the engines.

Shortly before the starting of the morning cars from the sheds this pipe burst and the company was unable to run its cars, with the exception of a few on the western division of the Maplewood line.

It was not until early this morning that the leak was repaired. Officials of the Suburban Company stated last night that a large force of men had been working at the break all day, and that their cars would be running this morning as usual.

When the Geyer avenue explosion occurred last night the downtown streets were filled with the Transit Company's cars, carrying persons from their work home.

The lights in all cars grew dim, and there was hardly enough power to operate the cars.

Later in the evening the service was improved, the lines which depended on the dynamo made useless by the explosion being connected with wires running from the other power-houses of the Transit Company. Officials state that the service is not greatly impaired and cars would be running as usual to-day.

CARROLL MAKES PLEA FOR KRATZ.

Asks That Opportunity Be Given Fugitive to Prove His Innocence of Boodling.

TALK BECOMES IMPASSIONED.

Styles Missouri Prosecutors "Human Bloodhounds" and Quotes Scripture in His Exhortation to Mexican Court.

SPECIAL TO THE REPUBLIC BY CARLE VIA GALVESTON. Mexico City, Mexico, Dec. 21.—Charles Carroll appeared before the Federal authorities in behalf of Charles Kratz to-day and presented a statement, in which he denied emphatically the guilt of his partner.

At times he was hysterical, and bitter throughout, quoting Scripture freely.

He charged political persecution as the sole animus of the proceedings, and called upon the Government of Mexico to afford Kratz a temporary refuge from "the human bloodhounds on his trail."

"Kratz stands ready to prove his innocence to the satisfaction of any one authorized to investigate," said Carroll, "and if it can be shown in a single instance that he has received a single dollar from any one, or that he was offered an inducement of any kind to stay away from St. Louis, then, in that event, he will pledge himself to return voluntarily at once, conscious of his own innocence."

"The feeling against Kratz has been used and is still being used to further the ambition of designing politicians. All he asks now is, for the time being, protection under the beneficent laws of this Republic, knowing full well he will return voluntarily to St. Louis as soon as his business interests permit, as he is guilty of no wrong or overt act and not afraid to abide the decision of an impartial court."

Carroll's speech was well received by the Mexican court, and he was allowed to remain in Mexico for a few days.

Carroll's plea for Kratz was a desperate one, and it is believed that the Mexican court will not grant it.

Kratz is still in Mexico, and is being held by the Mexican authorities.

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